Vallejo
Letter

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The Western Crusader. June, 1911

Dear Mr. Bowman,

I have made a copy of the letter to which you refer thinking that you might be interested in its entirety. You will see that it took about ten years in which to build the house. If we can be of further service to you, please call upon us.

Very truly yours,

Louane Leech Newsome

Mrs. Ellis H. Newsome
Librarian

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Sonoma, May 16, 1889.

Dear Miss Denman:

Your letter of the 13th just reached me in safety, and at your request I will narrate some of the interesting facts concerning the old adobe, three or four miles east of Petaluma.

I built the house in 1834 to 1844, and it was of immense proportions, owing to the different departments for factories and warehouses.

I made blankets enough to supply over 2,000 Indians; also carpets, and a coarse material used by them for their wearing apparel. A large tannery, also, where we manufactured shoes for the troops and vaqueros. Also a blacksmith shop for making saddles, bridles, spurs, and many other things required by the horsemen.

I have a blanket still in my possession made there, and although in constant use, it is in perfect condition.

My harvest productions were so large that my storehouses were literally over-filled every year. In 1843 my wheat and barley crop amounted to 72,000 Spanish bushels (a "fanega" or Spanish bushel is equal to one and one-half of our bushels) and my plowmen were but 200 men. Corn about 5,000 Spanish bushels, besides a superabundance of all grains for daily use, such as beans, peas, lentils, and vegetables of all kinds.

All these products were stored in different departments of this large house, besides giving freely to the Indians who lived in the surrounding country in peace with me. A large number of hides were preserved every year, also tallow, lard, and dried meat to sell to the "Yankees".

In one wing of my house, up stairs, I lived with my family when in Petaluma. The south front was 250 feet long, and the building formed a large square, the house having an immense courtyard inside where every morning the laborers met and called the roll before dispersing for their various occupations.

The house was two stories high and very solid, made of adobe and timber,

brought by oxen from the redwoods, and prepared for use by the old fashioned saw, [redacted] by four Kanakas, (my servants) brought from the Sandwich Islands by Captain Cooper, my brother-in-law. It had wide corridors inside and outside, some of which were carpeted by our own make of carpets.

Mr. Fowler, father of Mr. Henry Fowler of Napa, was the last carpenter who worked at my old house. I sold it to Mr. White about twenty years ago for $25,000. It was never attacked by the Indians.

When I was taken prisoner by the Bear Flag party, this house was filled with what I have already mentioned, and they disposed of everything.

The meaning of the word Petaluma signifies in the Indian language " a beautiful panorama seen in the great declivity from all points."

Hoping that this reaches you in time, and will give you a full detail of the old adobe is the sincere wish of

Yours very truly,

M. G. Vallejo